

# LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY



Living in the Northern Rockies means living, working, and recreating alongside wildlife, including bears. Taking precautions to ensure your property does not attract bears will keep you and your property safe, and wildlife wild.

## STASH YOUR TRASH

- Garbage and food odors attract bears. Store garbage in a secure, hard-sided building until trash pick-up time or until you dispose of it.
- Use bear-resistant containers to secure trash and ensure they are properly closed and locked. For trash pick-up service, please contact your trash collector to request a bear-resistant can or information on how to obtain one. If you do not have or want trash pick-up service, bear-resistant cans can be found at Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Home Depot Online, and other hardware stores. For a full list of bear-resistant products, check [igbconline.org](http://igbconline.org).
- If you compost, secure it with bear-resistant containers or electric fencing.



Bears can smell odors from up to 20 miles away!

## DON'T INVITE BEARS TO BBQS

- If you barbeque, clean your grills after each use and store them in a secure, hard-sided building. Make sure fire pits are cleared of food residue.

## BEARS LIKE PET FOOD TOO

- If you have pets or animals, keep their food in secure, hard-sided buildings. Avoid feeding pets outside or be sure to bring in food dishes at night, as even empty dishes can attract bears.

## KEEP BEARS AWAY FROM...

- Garbage
- Human and pet foods
- Birdseed
- Fruit trees
- Dirty grills
- Coolers
- Small livestock
- Anything with a food scent!

## ATTRACT BIRDS, NOT BEARS

- Bird food is also bear food! Bird feeders, including hummingbird feeders and suet, should be removed during bears' active season, March through November. Instead of using feeders, consider planting native trees, flowers, and bushes that provide birds with shelter and food.
- If you must keep bird feeders, protect them with electric fencing.
- Bird houses, nest boxes, and bird baths are other great ways to attract birds to your property.

## BEAR SAFE YOUR YARD

- If you have fruit trees, berry bushes, or a garden, secure them with permanent or temporary electric fencing. Pick up dropped fruit, or replace fruit trees with non-fruit bearing varieties.
- Chickens and bee boxes are an easy food source for bears. Permanent and temporary electric fencing can help protect them. Keep livestock or animal feed in bear-resistant containers or in a secure, hard-sided building.
- Install motion-censored lights around the home as these may discourage bears from staying in the area.

## BE BEAR-Y CAREFUL

- Never intentionally leave out food for bears. Bears easily become food conditioned and may associate residential areas with access to food. This can put you, your neighborhood, and bears at risk.
- If a bear is observed on your property and you are in a safe location to do so, make loud noises using a horn, pots and pans, a loud bell, or other item to scare the bear away. Never approach a bear.



## REPORT BEAR ACTIVITY

If you see a bear or evidence of bear activity, it doesn't necessarily mean there is a problem—it may just be passing through the area. If a bear appears to be hanging around human areas or is causing concern, report it to your nearest wildlife management agency bear specialist.



**PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES**

*Solutions that work for people and wildlife*



Various tools and methods can help prevent conflicts with bears, keeping people and property safe, and wildlife moving. For more information on conflict prevention solutions, visit **PeopleAndCarnivores.org**.